

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

*Session document*

10 March 2004

B5-0129/2004 }  
B5-0132/2004 }  
B5-0135/2004 }  
B5-0139/2004 }  
B5-0141/2004 }  
B5-0143/2004 } RC1

## JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure, by

- Charles Tannock, Gabriele Stauner and Bernd Posselt, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Margrietus J. van den Berg and Jan Marinus Wiersma, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Bob van den Bos, Paavo Väyrynen and Samuli Pohjamo, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Elisabeth Schroedter and Marie Anne Isler Béguin, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Luigi Vinci, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Bastiaan Belder, on behalf of the EDD Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- Verts/ALE (B5-0129/2004),
- EDD (B5-0132/2004),
- ELDR (B5-0135/2004),
- PSE (B5-0139/2004),
- PPE-DE (B5-0141/2004),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0143/2004),

on Ukraine

RC\528137EN.doc

PE 342.493 }  
PE 342.496 }  
PE 342.499 }  
PE 342.503 }  
PE 342.505 }  
PE 342.507 } RC1

## European Parliament resolution on Ukraine

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Ukraine,
  - having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the European Union and Ukraine, which entered into force on 1 March 1998,
  - having regard to the Common Strategy of the European Union on Ukraine, adopted by the European Council in Helsinki on 11 December 1999,
  - having regard to the Joint Statement of the Ukraine-European Union Summit of 7 October 2003,
  - having regard to the Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on proposals for constitutional change in Ukraine of 29 January 2004,
  - having regard to the Resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the political crisis in Ukraine, adopted on 29 January 2004,
  - having regard to the Final Statement and Recommendations of the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee of 16-17 February 2004,
  - having regard to its report on Wider Europe,
  - having regard to Rule 50(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Wider Europe – Neighbourhood policy of the EU recognises the importance of Ukraine as a country with deep historical, cultural and economic links to the Member States of the EU,
- B. having regard to the ongoing preparation by the Commission of the Action Plan due to be ready in spring 2004, which should include proposals aimed at encouraging the political and institutional reforms which will enable Ukraine to integrate progressively in EU policies and programmes,
- C. pointing out that a genuine and balanced partnership can only develop on the basis of shared common values with regard, in particular, to democracy, the rule of law and respect for human and civil rights,
- D. whereas poor prison conditions, arbitrary detention and excessively long periods of pre-trial detention in Ukraine remain serious problems,
- E. whereas freedom of expression in Ukraine is coming under further threat, and an increasing number of serious violations against independent media and journalists are taking place, such as direct pressure and intervention from official services against certain media, arbitrary

RC\528137EN.doc

PE 342.493}  
PE 342.496}  
PE 342.499}  
PE 342.503}  
PE 342.505}  
PE 342.507} RC1

administrative and legal actions against television stations and other media outlets and harassment of, and violence against, journalists,

- F. whereas, recently, broadcasts by Radio Liberty have been stopped by the new management of privately owned Radio Dovira, the largest opposition newspaper Silsky Visti has been prosecuted and the authorities have launched a campaign against the Fifth Channel, thereby raising fears on the part of the opposition of further government interference in the freedom of the press,
  - G. whereas recent constitutional changes having a serious impact on democratic institutions in Ukraine have been partially modified by the Ukrainian Parliament following the opposition's demand for annulment of an earlier irregular parliamentary vote,
  - H. whereas the Constitutional Court's ruling on the recent constitutional reforms has shown the vulnerability of the independence of the judiciary in Ukraine,
1. Calls on the Ukrainian authorities to improve prison conditions and end arbitrary detention and excessively long periods of pre-trial detention;
  2. Calls on the Government of Ukraine to respect freedom of expression and undertake sustained and effective measures to prevent and punish interventions against free and independent media, arbitrary administrative and legal actions against television stations and other media outlets and harassment of, and violence against, journalists;
  3. Expresses its concern at the recent closure of the newspaper Silsky Visti, the jamming of Radio Liberty broadcasts and the campaign against the Fifth Channel;
  4. Calls on the Government of Ukraine to clarify allegations that its secret service was instructed to spy on journalists and Ukrainian and foreign politicians in their respective home countries in order to discourage them, if necessary, from continuing to take up human rights issues in Ukraine;
  5. Calls on the Ukrainian Government to make every effort to clarify the suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of journalist Yuriy Chechyk and of the other high-profile journalists who have been victims of road accidents or death in bizarre circumstances;
  6. Takes note of the rejection by the Ukrainian Parliament of part of the draft law on amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine and the efforts of the opposition in this respect;
  7. Believes that the legitimacy of constitutional change should be derived from genuine public support for its aims and encourages Ukraine to respond positively to the offer by the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) of further cooperation in the field of constitutional reforms;
  8. Urges the Commission to step up TACIS democracy programmes so as to strengthen civil society and independent media and support the consolidation of democratic institutions;

9. Urges the Council and Commission to monitor closely the situation in Ukraine, to take an active part in the run-up to next autumn's presidential elections and to support a joint action with the OSCE/ODHIR and the Council of Europe;
10. Calls on the Ukrainian authorities to make a formal commitment to hold October's forthcoming presidential elections in conditions of the greatest possible transparency;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to Council, the Commission, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Secretary General of the OSCE/ODHIR and the Government and Parliament of Ukraine.